

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND THREE

JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WELL-MANAGED FORESTS AND
SOUND FOREST PRODUCTS PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Maine Legislature recognizes the important progress many of Maine's forest landowners have made in implementing the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council; and

WHEREAS, the owners of over 6,000,000 acres of Maine forest land have received independent 3rd-party certification of management of their lands under one or both of these systems; and Maine's forest industry contributes annually over \$5,000,000,000 to the State's economy and directly employs nearly 30,000 people, and the public has a justifiable and legitimate interest in the future vitality of Maine's forest-based economy; and

WHEREAS, the practice known as liquidation harvesting is inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council; and

WHEREAS, the practice of liquidation harvesting, however limited, diminishes the public image of the forest industry and endangers the social license to practice responsible forest management; and

WHEREAS, one of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's objectives is to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by cooperating with forest landowners, wood producers, consulting foresters and program participants' employees who have responsibility in wood procurement and landowner assistance programs and one of its performance measures states that program participants shall clearly define and implement their own policies to ensure that mill inventories and procurement practices do not compromise

WHEREAS, wood procurement policies have great potential to serve as a market-based solution to the problem of liquidation harvesting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred Twenty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people of the State of Maine, encourage the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's state implementation committee and other appropriate bodies to encourage the development of purchasing policies by program participants that will reduce the amount of wood originating from liquidation harvesting operations that is purchased or brokered by Maine's forest products industry; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a similar process be undertaken by the Forest Stewardship Council and businesses that it certifies; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the State's forest products industry be encouraged to be vigilant in its efforts to obtain wood only from suppliers who have conducted responsible harvests that do not compromise the ability of the land to support a forest industry in the future.